

LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Vol. XXX, No. 624

A publication of John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

October 2004

Sergeants' overtime is an issue

Whoever is entitled to overtime pay should receive it, says St. Louis Police Chief Joe Mokwa, but just who that will be has drawn two U.S. senators, a labor lawyer, and the U.S. Department of Labor into a dispute between the department and its sergeants.

At issue is the Bush administration's new overtime pay law enacted in August. The changes are the first to be made in the Fair Labor Standards Act in more than 50 years and have been touted by officials as a means of eliminating the confusion surrounding who is entitled to time-and-a-half overtime pay and who is not.

Under the revised regulations, workers earning \$23,660 a year will automatically be eligible, irrespective of their job classification. Overtime may not be paid to those making \$100,000 or more. For those who fall in between, the law remains unclear.

A study by the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington-based think tank, challenges Labor Department estimates that only 107,000 workers will lose overtime pay, while coverage will be expanded to 1.3 million low-wage hourly employees. According to the institute's findings, some 6 million employees will lose overtime as employers reclassify their jobs to make them exempt.

In St. Louis, sergeants believe they are now entitled to overtime pay. The law grants new protections to first responders and specifically mentions police sergeants. The Aug. 23 issue of *The Federal Register* noted that sergeants "are entitled to overtime pay even if they direct the work of other police officers."

But under a reclassification made last month by the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, those sergeants deemed to be executive staff and management, such as first-line supervisors, are ineligible. On the other hand, sergeants whose duties include acting as bodyguards or chauffeurs for the mayor, or as internal affairs investigators — jobs that could be performed by either a patrol officer or a detective — will be able to collect overtime.

Prior to the law, sergeants in St. Louis never earned overtime.

"There was this perception that may or may not be accurate, that sergeants would automatically be eligible for overtime," Mokwa told *Law Enforcement News*.

The department hired a labor attorney, he said, to review its job classifications for the rank of sergeant. It was his opinion that those in executive positions who do not perform the functions of rank-and-file officers

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An alarming body count?

Questions surround data on police suicides

By Jennifer Nislow
(First of two parts.)

One died after he crashed his car into a rock wall. Two others used firearms to end their lives. All were law enforcement officers, and all were apparently overwhelmed by circumstances that experts say are among the leading causes of suicide among police — a threat to one's job, the end of a relationship, or a health crisis.

No federal agency tracks the numbers annually, making the question of whether or not police suicide is increasing — as one organization claims — a matter of continuing debate. Still, departments are taking no chances. Many have either developed their own suicide prevention programs, often as part of a psychological services unit, or seek outside training — particularly after an incident.

Among those contending that police suicides are on the rise is the National POLICE Suicide Foundation, a Maryland-based organization that tracks incidents and provides prevention-oriented training to law enforcement agencies.

By the foundation's estimate, police kill themselves at twice the rate that they are killed in the line of duty. Some 450 officers committed suicide in 22 of the 50 states in 2002, according to the group, compared to the 148 line-of-duty deaths that occurred that year. That is an increase from 2001 with 430 suicides, and 2000, with 410, according



MEANS, MOTIVE, OPPORTUNITY: Group says police suicide rates far outstrip those of the general population.

to the foundation.

"According to our foundation, we're looking at about 60 [police suicides] per 100,000, so you're looking at about every 17 hours — versus every 67 hours that an officer is killed in the line of duty," said the group's executive director, the Rev. Robert Douglas,

a former officer and chaplain who spent 30 years with the Baltimore City Police Department.

Douglas noted that the foundation's

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Tough countermeasures for off-duty drinking

Heightened concerns about off-duty drinking by police officers have prompted two departments to take stern countermeasures, in one case reversing a decades-old policy requiring officers to have their weapons with them at all times, and in another, requiring officers to notify another law-enforcement agency in the event that they have a few after work.

The change in weapons policy in Detroit last month was largely driven by a five-year federal consent decree that the city entered into in 2003, which required the department to reform its use-of-force and prisoner-care policies. As part of that, police are prohibited from carrying weapons "in situations where an officer's performance may be impaired."

Said Police Commissioner Megan Nornis: "Certainly the department is evaluating the effect that someone having a firearm with them at all times has, especially when we're not in a position to monitor their conduct at all times. What the old policy did was blur the line between off-duty and on-duty conduct."

According to Inspector Jamie Fields of the agency's planning and accreditation section, off-duty officers are subject to a sobriety test if they are carrying a weapon

and make an arrest. And outside of Detroit, Fields told *The Detroit Free Press*, they have "only the rights of normal citizens."

Slightly more than one-third of Detroit's officers live in the suburbs.

The Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association is opposed to the new policy. It was changed, association officials asserted, to shift liability away from the department and onto individual officers.

"Our position is that officers are on duty 24 hours a day, and seven days a week," said the association's president, Sgt. James Gawlowski.

In Winter Haven, Fla., meanwhile, members of the emergency response team will henceforth be required to notify their counterparts at the Polk County Sheriff's Department squad if they plan on having a few drinks while off duty.

The new policy was enacted in the aftermath of a party held in a private home this past summer to celebrate a colleague's promotion. Many of those present, including members of the E.R.T., used the occasion to have a few drinks.

Shortly thereafter, the department, City Hall, the city manager's office and The Ledger of Lakeland, Fla., all received an

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Cause for alarm:

When does police fatigue become an ethical consideration. See "Forum," Page 9.

AROUND THE NATION

NORTHEAST



CONNECTICUT — William C. Abbate-matteo was suspended as Meriden's police chief in September for allegedly being paid by a national police accreditation agency while on city time, and altering statistics to show a lower crime rate, among other allegations. City Manager Roger L. Kemp outlined his reasons for suspending Abbate-matteo in a three-page letter, and said he had hired outside consultants to investigate.

Old Saybrook Police Officer Charles DellaRocco resigned in September as coach of the local high school girls' soccer team, after school officials learned that he was one of 11 officers found using work computers to access pornographic web sites.

Bridgeport Police Officer John Biehn faces several charges, including reckless endangerment and unlawful discharge of a firearm, for shooting up a housing complex after having a fight with his girlfriend, also a police officer. Biehn is the fifth Bridgeport officer to be arrested this year, two of them were charged in domestic violence incidents.

MAINE — Knox County Sheriff Daniel Davey and Thomaston Police Officer Tim Hoppe say they were duped by the East Coast Marketing Group of Rhode Island, which is currently under investigation by the Maine Attorney General for alleged illegal business practices. Davey and Hoppe say they hired the company to do fundraising for the Knox County Explorer Program, and then learned about the investigation. The firm must return more than \$14,000 to contributors.

MARYLAND — The Baltimore housing authority police will be absorbed by the city police department as part of a plan to reduce crime. Mayor Martin O'Malley said that because of reductions in federal funding, Baltimore cannot continue to operate an independent housing authority force.

NEW JERSEY — Springfield Police Officer Christopher LaPrigola, 39, pleaded guilty to official misconduct after admitting to faking his own shooting earlier this year. Investigators first grew suspicious of LaPrigola's story of being ambushed in a parking lot, when a surveillance camera at a nearby building showed that there was no other car in the area. LaPrigola reportedly was despondent over a divorce and the abrupt end of a subsequent relationship.

Ex-Newark police officer Tyrone M. Dudley pleaded guilty Sept. 23 to being part of a group of rogue officers who terrorized and stole from drug dealers and other suspects, and then covered up their crimes by filing false reports. Seven police officers implicated by Dudley have been reassigned from street patrol to administrative duties.

NEW YORK — NYPD officer Javier V. Colon, 25, was putting away his service weapon Sept. 15 when it accidentally discharged, shooting a friend, 25-year-old George Perez, in the face. Perez died shortly afterwards. Officials said that the accident happened because Colon had not properly

safeguarded his weapon, but noted that after the accident Colon and the two other people present did everything possible to try and save Perez's life. Colon was placed on modified duty while authorities investigate.

Officials of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection were recently galled by City Council members about a turnover rate of more than 25 percent for DEP police. The DEP police protect the city's 2,000-square-mile watershed against crime and potential terrorism, but many of the officers, after being trained, leave to get higher-paying jobs elsewhere. DEP police start at only \$25,000 a year, compared to \$34,970 for an NYPD officer.

New York City has agreed to pay up to \$20 million to settle a class-action suit brought by 1,199 black and Latino officers, who charged that the police department discriminated against minority officers and subjected them to a hostile work environment, disparate disciplinary treatment, and retaliation for filing discrimination complaints. The city did not admit any wrongdoing, but did agree to institute changes in personnel procedures that would end discrimination on the job.

An audit in Buffalo has found that some police officers received big increases in overtime just before retirement, in order to boost their pensions. Some employees, who had earned less than \$10,000 in overtime in previous years, received \$20,000 to \$45,000 in their final year on the job.

SOUTHEAST



FLORIDA — A Pinellas County deputy recently made the first local arrest using facial recognition software. A woman, later identified as Shannon Horton, was the subject of a noise complaint at a mobile home park. Sheriff's Cpl. Robert Taylor believed she was lying about her name, so he took a digital photograph and used the computer in his cruiser to match the image to one contained in a statewide database. Horton was arrested when it was learned that she was wanted for violating probation on drug and prostitution convictions.

GEORGIA — Albany police Cpl. Andrew Hayslip, 37, shot and killed his 4-year-old son and then himself, after quarrelling with the child's mother and shooting her. Hayslip was picking up his son at a pre-school center when he got into an argument with his ex-girlfriend.

The Dalton Police Department has finally nailed "The Mad Tacker," who in March started sprinkling nails in parking lots, roads, and the driveways of some officers' homes, causing dozens of flat tires. Robert Chad Holcomb, 35, was finally caught in the act after tossing nails near the Wharf County sheriff's office. Holcomb said he did it in retaliation for law enforcement officers harassing him and his family, a claim that members of the sheriff's department deny.

LOUISIANA — Former New Orleans police officer Gregory Augustine pleaded guilty Sept. 24 to conspiracy to commit

armed bank robbery. Augustine, while still a member of the police department, approached a bank employee and offered him \$500,000 for helping him in a robbery. The employee later cooperated with the FBI.

MISSISSIPPI — Members of the Guardian Angels citizens' patrol, which originated in New York City in 1979, are trying to recruit a chapter in Jackson. There have been 35 homicides in Jackson in the first nine months of this year, compared to 46 in the same period last year. The Guardian Angels claims to have 5,000 members in 32 cities.

SOUTH CAROLINA — A new 911 emergency notification system in Chester will help officials to deal with neighborhood water emergencies, weather-related problems, and even hostage situations. The new system uses a computerized map to illustrate individual homes or specific areas. It can then program a recorded message to be sent to residents' phones to alert them in the event of an emergency.

VIRGINIA — As part of a planned new series depicting the day-to-day operations of campus police, the Court TV cable channel recently began filming at Virginia Tech. Police Chief Debra Duncan said that she hopes the show will illustrate how campus police are professional law enforcement officers with the same responsibilities as municipal and state police. The show may air as early as December.

Letters addressed to the governors' offices in Virginia and West Virginia, which were rigged to ignite when opened, were intercepted on Sept. 13. The previous week, 16 other states got similar letters. Although some of the letters caught fire, no one was injured. Authorities are now interviewing prison inmates in Ely State Prison in Nevada, as the letters all bore the return address from the maximum-security facility.

MIDWEST



ILLINOIS — Gov. Rod Blagojevich has signed a new law aimed at combating the methamphetamine problem by restricting retail sales and display of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. The chemicals, found in many common cold medicines, are both used in the manufacture of meth.

INDIANA — Indianapolis police will soon undergo training on semiautomatic M-16 rifles. The police department has had the weapons in storage since last year. The decision to go ahead with the training came amid criticism that the police had inadequate firepower during a shootout in August with a gunman who had a SKS-style assault weapon. Patrolman Timothy Laird was killed at a distance of 150 yards from the gunman.

MICHIGAN — Michael L. Allen, 37, has been charged with the murder of off-duty Detroit Police Officer Ken Daniels, 28, who was working as a bouncer at a strip club when he had to escort a group of men out of the bar for refusing to pay their tab. Allen was seen on a surveillance tape pulling out a gun and shooting Daniels after a struggle.

Waterford Township police officer Michael

Waleskowski, who was under criminal investigation for allegedly stealing money, shot his wife and 9-year-old son, and then shot himself inside the family's home. When authorities arrived at the scene, the home was engulfed by flames started by what appeared to be flammable liquids.

OHIO — Downtown property owners in Columbus are encouraging residents and workers in the area to write to city officials after staffing shortages prompted Columbus Police Chief James G. Jackson to consider ending bicycle patrols in order to free up personnel to staff police cruisers.

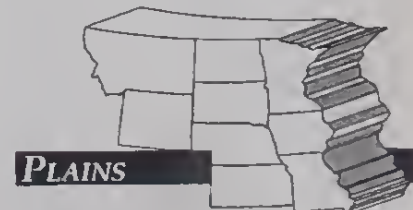
Jeff Klitch and three other retired Beavercreek police officers are petitioning the city to give them identification cards so that they have the authority to carry concealed weapons under the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act signed into law this summer by President Bush. City officials say that they are proceeding with caution because they do not understand the law.

WEST VIRGINIA — Charleston police are cracking down on drive-away gas thefts. The thefts have been increasing as the cost of gasoline has risen and some offenders are doing it repeatedly. Steven Tompa, who has been caught on video or witnessed driving away eight different times, has been charged with eight counts of failure to pay for gas.

WISCONSIN — The Milwaukee Police Department will now require alarm companies to verify a break-in before officers are dispatched. The department joins a growing number of agencies nationwide that require such verification because the number of false alarms is tying up police officers. Last year, 96 percent of Milwaukee's alarms, or 27,336 calls, were false.

Gerald Polzin, 40, the police liaison officer at Appleton East High School, faces charges of sexual assault and child enticement stemming from incidents in 1997 involving two teenage boys. One of the alleged victims, now 23, who had been placed as a foster child with Polzin, detailed for investigators incidents of sexual assault and contact. Videotapes of the sex acts allegedly made by Polzin led police to the other victim.

Oconomowoc police Sgt. Mark Schrang was suspended without pay for one day for using a racial slur about African-Americans during roll call. According to a complaint filed by a patrol officer, when a man called to report that his female companion was missing, Schrang said to other officers that she was probably having sexual relations with a black man in Milwaukee.



MINNESOTA — While a State Patrol airplane flew overhead, a Stillwater motorcyclist set an informal record for the fastest speed ever tickered, 205 miles per hour, in the state's history. State Patrol pilot Al Loney radioed to another state trooper on the ground, and once the motorcycle had slowed down to about 100 mph, the second trooper pulled it over. The operator was charged with

driving without a license, reckless driving and driving 140 miles above the speed limit.

Apologizing to a crowd at a largely Hispanic church for not speaking in Spanish, Minneapolis Police Chief Bill McManus vowed that the Police Department would not tolerate officers using excessive force. The comments came in the wake of a videotaped incident in which Officer Victor Mills allegedly slapped a suspect in the face and spun him around so that his head hit the squad car. Mills's attorney, however, said that the videotape was not made until after the suspect physically resisted arrest and repeatedly spit on the officers.

In Minneapolis, Inspector Rob Allen of the First Precinct and three other officers traveled to Israel during the summer to learn how to respond in terrorist attacks. The trip, which cost about \$12,000, was financed through Homeland Security funds. Israeli officials will also offer workshops to law enforcement officials and medical professionals in the Hennepin County area. The Israelis will be making three stops around the country.

MISSOURI — Joplin Police Officer Timothy Nielson died Sept. 13, more than a month after suffering extensive burns while responding to a possible suicide call. He and Officer Greg Batson were both injured from an explosion in a home they had just entered. Batson survived. The owner of the home, David Riley, 41, died the next day. Investigators said a gas line in the home was left on and it ignited.

Kansas City police say they are investigating a link between a body found in an alley and the murders of six other women found about two miles away. They have asked prosecutors to charge Terry Blair, who served 21 years for killing his ex-girlfriend and is now charged with killing one of the six women, with the other five killings.

NEBRASKA — A survey conducted in three rural communities outside of Omaha — Valley, Waterloo and Bennington — found that one-third of respondents have experienced some form of domestic violence. The survey is part of the research being performed with a \$140,000 federal grant awarded to the Valley Domestic Violence Task Force.

A task force to evaluate judicial decision making — Judicial Accountability to Save Our Neighborhoods (JASON) — has released its first review of judges' overall performances. The group was formed by Stacy Pratt, whose husband, Omaha Police Officer Jason Tye Pratt, was shot by a man on probation for a previous shooting. The task force pointed to 93 probation sentences handed down in 2000 and 2001, for defendants whose crimes included assault, sexual assault, assaulting a police officer and manslaughter.

NORTH DAKOTA — Authorities are looking for ways to make it harder for transient sex offenders to avoid accurate registration. One high-risk offender, David Barrera, reported an address and left the residence the next day, then failed to register the new address. A panel that is examining current rules recommended such measures as regular check-ins, stricter sentences, and treatment and civil commitment.

WYOMING — In 2003, Yellowstone National Park rangers were subjected to 20 threats and 12 assaults, compared to the two to four assaults in an average year. Brian Smith, the supervisory special agent at Yellowstone, pointed to such factors as the involvement of drugs and alcohol in nearly every case, a lower number of law officers, and an unusually warm summer.



COLORADO — A U.S. district judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by former FBI agent James F. Kearney, who claims to have proof of a coverup by the Denver SWAT team in the fatal shooting of an immigrant during a no-knock raid on the wrong house. The judge ruled that Kearney did not have sufficient evidence to support his claim that the unarmed man, Ismael Mena, was shot through a wall and then officers planted a gun on him and smeared gunpowder on his hands. Police say the man was killed because he fired at them.

Colorado will receive about \$2.7 million in federal funds as part of a nationwide plan to help local agencies clear up backlogs of DNA samples. In Denver, the crime lab has 1,000 samples in need of testing, including 750 that are related to cold cases.

TEXAS — The Galveston County medical examiner's office has concluded that Eliezer "Tito" Jimenez, the Texas City Police Department applicant who died during a physical training exercise, died from an enlarged heart. Authorities had feared that the summer heat had played a role in the 31-year-old's death, but the medical examiner did not find any evidence of that.

Houston Police Officer Muzaffar Siddiqi, who serves as liaison to the city's South Asian and Middle Eastern communities, is working to develop a "Blue Bridge" aimed at bringing together Muslims and Jews in order to help them appreciate each other's cultures. Siddiqi had worked in his native Pakistan as a police officer and vowed never to go back into law enforcement because of the corruption he saw there, but was persuaded by a recruiter from the HPD who told him his language skills — he speaks Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, English and Spanish — would be highly valued. Siddiqi's efforts are believed to have made many immigrants feel more comfortable coming forward to police.

The San Antonio Police Department is making efforts to diversify its police force, yet when Abina Elliott was sworn in on Sept. 17, she became just the first black woman to join since 1996. Of the roughly 2,000 officers in San Antonio, only 145 are female and only 12 of those are black.

Houston-based U.S. Attorney Michael Shelby and other officials have joined in forming the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance, a law enforcement and social services task force. In the past three years, the Justice Department has charged 121 people nationwide with human trafficking and secured 83 convictions. The Houston

YMCA, which is part of the new task force, is training police in how to spot tell-tale signs of enslavement, which officials say can exist in the most respectable neighborhoods.

Two Border Patrol agents, Travis M. Attaway, 31, and Jeremy M. Wilson, 29, disappeared Sept. 19 after their patrol boat capsized on the rain-swollen Rio Grande. Chief Agent R. T. Ortega of the Border Patrol's McAllen sector said the accident occurred during "routine marine operations" and the Coast Guard is investigating the accident. Agent Javier Sandoval, 38, the boat's captain, was rescued shortly after the boat capsized.

State District Judge Keith Dean has added several requirements to the probation sentence of Frank Dorsett for his role in a fatal road rage crash. Dorsett must take a daily medication that will make him sick if he drinks alcohol, may not drive a car with more than 130 horsepower, and he must carry a photo of the wreckage he caused.

UTAH — The Utah Supreme Court has ruled against Salt Lake sheriff's deputies who were seeking \$1 million in back pay. A pay policy that adjusted incoming deputies' paychecks by 5 percent for every two years of outside law enforcement work left senior deputies earning less than some of their newer colleagues. A group of deputies successfully sued the county in 1992. A second group of about 100 deputies subsequently brought suit. Although a district judge ruled in their favor, the higher court reversed the decision.

A law that took effect this summer reinstates the ability of local police to share in federal forfeitures and allows funds to be funneled into local police departments. The measure overhauls Initiative B, passed in 2000, which had stripped away local police authority to share in assets obtained from illegal activity of criminals on the grounds that the process would lead to "policing for profit."



CALIFORNIA — John Miller, the head of the Los Angeles Police Department's counterterrorism bureau, was "extraordinarily embarrassed" when he was detained for trying to board a flight to New York with a loaded .38-caliber handgun in his luggage. Police may only travel with weapons if they are on-duty and have a department letter authorizing the travel. Miller had such authorization, but failed to disclose that he was traveling with the gun.

Although the number of homicides in the state rose slightly last year to 2,402, from 2,392 the previous year, the actual per-capita homicide rate dropped 1.5 percent due to an increase in population. Although blacks and Hispanics account for 7 percent and 32 percent of the state's population, respectively, they represented 30 percent and 44 percent of the state's homicide victims.

Although Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton was named as a top contender for

the job of Metropolitan Police Commissioner in London, he announced that he would not take the job. Bratton said he planned to finish the five-year term as LAPD chief to which he was appointed in 2002.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill in September that expands a law allowing women to claim battered women's syndrome as a legal defense. The measure gives women who were convicted of killing their alleged abusers prior to 1992 the right to seek reduced sentences or new trials.

Los Angeles homeowners and businesses that set off false alarms face new penalties beginning Jan. 1. A first false alarm will result in a \$115 fine and fines will escalate by \$50 for each false alarm after that. Currently alarm owners are fined after two false alarms and fewer than half of the fines are paid. Officials hope to improve collections by using better technology to track alarm users.

Authorities in Los Angeles are reviewing nearly 1,000 drug cases after discovering that police chemist Jeff Lowe botched evidence in 47 instances. Lab supervisors say they think the discrepancies were inadvertent and were probably caused when Lowe weighed seized drugs in their containers.

Brian DeVries has been certified by court order as the state's first fully rehabilitated sexually violent predator. While his family, psychologists and even his prosecutor say that he has done everything required to be rehabilitated — and has had himself surgically castrated — many people, including residents of Washington state where he will be moving, believe DeVries is un-reformable. In total, DeVries says he has victimized about 30 children in three states.

NEVADA — Las Vegas police officer Jeremy Krough will appeal his firing by Sheriff Bill Young, according to David Kallas, executive director of the Police Protective Association. Kallas said that Krough, who was fired for using a Taser on a suspect and not reporting the incident, is being used as a scapegoat. An investigation had found that Krough and other officers had used excessive force in some instances and had T-shirts made to commemorate a 2003 police shooting of an unarmed suspect.

Nevada's overall crime rate was up nearly 9 last year compared to 2002. Homicides were up by 7.1 percent, although total violent crimes decreased slightly, by 0.4 percent.

OREGON — According to an investigation by The (Portland) Oregonian newspaper, at least a dozen mentally ill children and teenagers sent for treatment at Oregon State Hospital were sexually abused by psychiatric aides. The paper also reported that supervisors failed to report the incidents in a timely manner, allowing the abuses to continue.

WASHINGTON — A wrongful-death lawsuit brought by the family of Crystal Brame is already creating a stir even though the case is not due to go to trial for another 10 months. Crystal Brame was shot and killed in April 2003 by her husband, Tacoma Police Chief David Brame, who then killed himself. The lawsuit alleges negligence on the part of the city and the police department, saying Chief Brame's erratic behavior was public and no one did anything to prevent it.

Love is in the air

A U.S. Forest Service Officer in Utah recently asked his girlfriend, a Utah County dispatcher, to become his wife — with an untold number of police and CB radio operators listening in on the proposal.

Officer Jason Parker had received permission from the Utah County Sheriff's Office to make his proposal over the police radio. He was given 25 seconds of air time. It was either that, said Parker, or rent a plane to tow an airtour message. He had also considered sky diving onto the department's front lawn.

Parker and his girlfriend of three years, Teri Yoakam, met at work. The sheriff's department takes calls for the Forest Service.

After popping the question on Oct. 4, the line was silent for a few seconds before Yoakam said yes. Actually, she said, "I would absolutely love to."

Yoakam later explained, "I didn't hesitate because I didn't know what I was going to say. I was just trying to come up with a really profound answer."

On the off chance that it did not go well for Parker, one police officer who was listening in said to Yoakam after she had accepted: "If you don't, I would have."

Doing without

San Jose, Calif., Police Chief Rob Davis will fast for the entire month of Ramadan this year, just as the Muslims in his community do.

Davis, 47, said he made the decision last year while addressing some 7,000 Muslims who live in the Bay Area. It dawned on him, said Davis, that they were hungry when he was not. If he was ever to understand the nuances of their religion, he told *The San Jose Mercury News*, then he would have to join them in their fast.

Muslims forgo eating, drinking and sex during the 29 or 30 days of Ramadan, which is the ninth month of the lunar calendar. Muslims believe that during the ninth month in the 7th century, God revealed the first verses of the Koran to Muhammad. The fast is a sign of deference. Feasts mark the breaking of the fast at sundown.

Davis, a triathlete, said he often finds himself too busy to eat much during the day except for Tinseltins and bottled water. Each night, he will break his fast with a different Muslim family, said Davis, and will extend an invitation to eat at his home.

As a Mormon, Davis said he has fasted the first Sunday of every month.

"It helps you focus on what is important in life: your family, the roof over your head, the community you live in, the country that afforded us all of this," he said. "At the end of the day, we're all the same."

Officer Abraham Ra'oof, one of only a few Muslims on the San Jose force, said he was not surprised by Davis's gesture. The chief is open to every religion and ethnic group, Ra'oof told *The Mercury News*.

"If he wants to try it out for his own personal reasons, I think it's outstanding," he said.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the San Jose department has been reaching out to the area's growing Muslim community. Police responded to a spike in anti-Arab attacks in the days after the terrorist attacks.

Everyone needs to know that the chief is the chief for everybody — not just the majority, not just for those in power, said Davis. "I need to be a chief for everybody, particularly for those who've felt marginalized."

Oh, what a feeling

In a demonstration that he later described as "very painful," Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske last month allowed himself to be stunned with a Taser so that he could experience the jolt of 50,000 volts of electricity for himself.

The demonstration, performed before a packed house at police headquarters, came on the heels of complaints that the police department and the city's chapter of the NAACP had been receiving about police abuse with the Taser.

The stun guns are part of a less-than-lethal arsenal that also includes beanbag rounds. All of the 220 Seattle officers who carry Tasers get shocked as part of their training. Police endorse the use of the weapon as a tool that can save officers from injury and, in some cases, the lives of suspects who may have otherwise been shot.

Carl Mack, president of the Seattle chapter of the NAACP, wanted to feel the Taser's shock to learn about the device firsthand. Kerlikowske offered to join in the demonstration to show that the Taser was safe to use.

Officers attached alligator clips to the two test subjects, on their upper back and near the belt line.

After the officers pulled the triggers on their Tasers, Kerlikowske and Mack both arched their backs in obvious pain. When it was over, they sagged into the arms of the

officers who had supported them during the shock. It lasted only two seconds, but it was memorable.

"I've never felt anything like that in my life," Mack told *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. "Anyone that can withstand that and still not comply is beyond human to me."

"It's a scary feeling," added Kerlikowske. Still, he told the audience, the demonstration showed that the Taser was safe and had no lingering effects. "The important thing is that I can actually stand up and talk to you," Kerlikowske noted.

Head case

A rookie Tampa police officer is facing the loss of his job and five years in federal prison, after commenting to his dry cleaner that he would kill President Bush and Bush's father, the former president, if someone were to give him the bullets.

Joseph Mazagwu, 35, the son of a Nigerian police officer, was indicted on charges of threatening the president and lying to investigators. There is no evidence that Mazagwu tried to make good on his threat, said the federal prosecutor.

A Nigerian native who served in the U.S. Army for 11 years, Mazagwu graduated from the police academy earlier this year and was assigned to a four-month field training period.

In a conversation with his cleaner over Bush's arrival in Tampa on July 15 — the following day — Mazagwu said he was against the war in Iraq and U.S. policy in Africa. He said he would not work on the president's security detail under any circumstances.

His words were, "The President needs to be shot. His father needs to be shot. If someone gave me bullets, I would do that. I would shoot them in the head," according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert O'Neill.

The dry cleaner reported the remarks to

another Tampa officer, and Mazagwu was subsequently questioned by the Secret Service, to whom he initially denied making the remarks. He later apologized for his comments after being confronted with further evidence, said O'Neill.

Past imperfect

Calhoun, Tenn., officials were shocked last month when a homeland-security background check conducted by federal authorities turned up a fugitive warrant for Chris Nicholson, the town's police chief.

Nicholson, 36, is wanted in Georgia for a 1989 burglary. He is also awaiting trial on theft charges in Grundy County, Tenn. State Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Nicholson on Sept. 9.

According to Richard Brogan, a supervising agent, the FBI got a call from the federal Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agency about Nicholson.

"We called Pickens County [Ga.], and confirmed that he was a fugitive from justice for a February 1989 burglary and that they still want him," Brogan told *The Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

City Manager Joe Bryan said a background check had been run by former Calhoun Chief Joe Petty in 2001, when Nicholson applied to be an officer. The Georgia warrant had apparently expired before the check, said Bryan. It was re-entered into the federal crime database in 2002.

Nicholson waived extradition to Georgia and is being held in McMinn County jail, said Brogan.

Early exit

Although he had more than a year to go before his term expired, longtime Santa Cruz County, Calif., Sheriff Mark Tracy announced this month that he would retire as of Dec. 1.

Tracy, who has served 33 years in law enforcement — almost 12 of those as sheriff — denied rumors that a lawsuit involving a former KCSO radio host, Richard Quigley, had led to his decision. Quigley claims that Tracy had tried to run him off the air because he was critical of the sheriff's department.

"Whatever his reason is, thank God it's time," Quigley told *The KSBW Channel.com*. "Bye. Bye. Fine with me, I won't miss him."

Tracy said there is no incident or situation, other than it is the right time for the organization for him to go.

"This is the right time for retirement," he said, "and I'm taking that step."

Tracy was elected sheriff three times. Voters will not get another opportunity to elect his successor until 2006. In the meantime, Chief Deputy Steve Robbins has requested appointment by the Board of Supervisors as interim sheriff.

"We have a wonderful staff, great leaders, and I think it's time for me to step aside and let the organization head into the future. And they will do really well," said Tracy.



Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske (2nd from right) and local NAACP president Carl Mack (2nd from left) sag in the arms of officers after they were zapped with the 50,000-volt charge from a Taser stun gun, as part of a recent demonstration. Officers bid for the right to be the one to zap the chief, with the proceeds going to the Special Olympics. (Photo: KIRO-TV)

More isn't merrier

Polygamist cops face loss of certification

Calling the practice a "black eye" for law enforcement, the Utah POST council said last month that it would seek to decertify any Hildale officer — including the agency's chief — who is found to be a polygamist.

Hildale is home to thousands of fundamentalist Mormons who practice a version of the religion that includes polygamy among its tenets. An agreement with its sister city, Colorado City, Ariz., allows some members of the Hildale force to work in either jurisdiction.

The decertification and conviction of Hildale officer Rodney Holm last year for bigamy and unconstitutional sex with a minor led to an eight-month probe of the agency by investigators for both the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council and the Utah Attorney General's office. A report issued this past June had identified seven officers who either have violated the state's prohibition against polygamy, or knew of such violations. Among those believed to have more than one wife was Police Chief Sam Roundy.

Last month, the POST council voted unanimously to revoke the licenses of any officer found breaking the law.

"I can't believe that any citizen would think that practicing polygamy... is anything that would make law enforcement look good," Ogden Chief Jon Greiner, vice



Hildale, Utah, Chief Sam Roundy

chairman of the POST council, told The Associated Press. The officers "have caused law enforcement to suffer a black eye," he said.

The council has to the authority to mete out punishments ranging from a suspension to decertification. But POST staff, including Director Sid Groll, said that anything less than decertification would probably be meaningless since it

was doubtful that officers would give up their wives.

"If they're going to look at us for polygamy, they better look at every police officer in the state to see which ones have broken any laws of any kind," Chief Roundy told The Deseret Morning News. "We're trying to live our religion. How many police officers around the state have stepped out on their wives or committed adultery? That's against the law, too."

Attorney General Mark Shurtleff said he would not criminally prosecute adults who engaged in sexual activities outside of marriage, or even in plural marriages. In Holm's case, the girl he took as his "spiritual wife" was 16 years old.

Roundy and his officers will be asked to give up their badges and certification. Should they refuse, a hearing will be held before an administrative law judge. The Washington County Sheriff's Department, which patrols the area, may assume greater responsibility over Hildale should the town's police force be dismantled. A grant will go toward placing a deputy in the area full-time, said Shurtleff.

Hildale Mayor David Zitting called the investigation a "direct attack" on polygamy. If Roundy loses his Utah certification, Zitting told The Morning News, the chief will still be able to enforce the law in Colorado City.

Garbage in, garbage out:

Cities take aim at "chronic nuisances"

When police are called out multiple times to the same location to deal with the same kind of offenses — such as prostitution, graffiti, gambling and other nuisances — landlords are going to foot the bill, under an ordinance recently adopted by Milwaukee County, Wis.

The ordinance mirrors one passed in the city of Milwaukee in 2001. It would apply whenever there were more than three calls to the same property within a 30-day period and would cover such offenses as barking dogs, littering, prostitution and disorderly conduct.

Police would notify the landlord that the property is in danger of being labeled a "chronic nuisance." After that, if the problems are not fixed, the Department of Neighborhood Services would charge the cost of future police visits to the owner's property-tax bill.

Data released in July found that of the 354 times that the city ordinance has been used in Milwaukee since July 5, 2001, 81.6 percent of property owners who were notified took care of the problem. Of the remaining 18.4 percent who were assessed fees, one-quarter fixed the violation after being charged a single time.

"What we've asked [landlords] to do is use their lease rights," Neighborhood Services Commissioner Marty Collins told The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "If they choose not to do that, other taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for the cost of their failure to do so."

Since June 2002, the city has added \$41,176 to property tax bills for noncompliance.

In the Village of St. Francis, which passed its own nuisance ordinance in 2002, Police Chief Victor Venus said all the property owners who have received letters have responded by correcting problems.

"I think it's a good tool," he told The Journal-Sentinel. "People shouldn't have to live next to problems. It's the responsibility of the landlord or whoever owns it to make sure the buildings are good places to live and it's a good neighborhood, besides just

collecting money."

Other cities are taking steps of their own to involve police in issues concerning neighborhood blight.

In Houston, the city transferred its Neighborhood Protection Program from the Department of Planning and Development to the Police Department last month. The new division, with a staff of 250, will be headed by Assistant Chief Brian Lumpkin.

"One person's heavy trash is another person's eyesore."

Lumpkin told The Houston Chronicle that he would create teams whose zones would closely parallel those of the department's 20 police districts.

"I've always felt it's important to include [the police department] in neighborhood protection," said Mary Vargo, chairwoman of the Southeast Houston Neighborhood Coalition.

In addition, the city will use a \$250,000 grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council to launch a pilot program called "Stop Trashing Houston." Fifteen cameras will be installed in areas where illegal dumping is a problem. The cameras will be mounted on utility poles, snapping pictures whenever they sense motion in a lot where they are pointed. The one-year grant is contingent on Houston officials expanding enforcement through the training of police and inspectors.

Unlike the video cameras that police use to catch potential environmental polluters, the stationary cameras are not designed to provide criminal evidence. They would serve as a preventive measure, said Suzy Hartgrove, a spokeswoman for the Planning and Development agency.

"There would be bright flashes, like a

strobe light, and then some kind of message will come out, like, 'Your picture has been taken,'" she told The Chronicle.

The city will also crack down on people who place their heavy trash on the curbside too early.

Heavy trash in Houston is picked up once a month. It is a violation to put it out before 6 p.m. on the Friday before the next weekday's scheduled pickup. This gives residents the opportunity to put their heavy trash out over the weekend.

Putting heavy trash out early encourages others to illegally dump refuse by the curbside, said Lumpkin. Repeat offenders can be fined as much as \$2,000.

"One person's heavy trash is another person's eyesore," said Mayor Bill White.

In November, the City Council will consider a proposal to deputize 300 civilian employees so that they can issue tickets. A zero-tolerance policy would be implemented, said White, with more citations handed out than warnings.

But Lumpkin said the city would not be "throwing out common sense with zero tolerance." While the homeowner is ultimately responsible, he said, there will be cases where an elderly person's heavy trash is brought out early by the lawn man. In such instances, the department will ask a neighbor to help out, said Lumpkin.

In Little Rock, Ark., four neighborhoods in east Little Rock received increased police patrols and code enforcement inspections under the Criminal Abatement Program launched by city officials earlier this year.

Dozens of arrests for drug possession, public intoxication and DUI have been made in the Hanger Hill area since August, according to police. More than 150 notices and 19 citations have been handed out by code officers for such violations as weed-filled lots, junk cars and furniture in yards.

Particular attention was given to the Eastview Terrace Apartments, a complex of 100 subsidized units that police called a "nucleus" of gang and drug activity. The development's owner, GCL Holdings of Bethesda, Md., was fined \$1,800 and issued

60 citations for failing to correct electrical problems and other health hazards.

Patrols have also been stepped up there, and police have helped managers to evict troublesome tenants.

Some residents of the targeted neighborhoods suspect a link between the city's actions and the opening of the Clinton presidential library next month.

"Do you think they want those people in to look at all that mess before they get to the library?" said City Director Johnnie Pugh, whose ward includes east Little Rock.

LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Founded 1975.

A publication of

John Jay College of Criminal Justice,
City University of New York.

Jeremy Travis, President

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Publisher

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Law Enforcement News is © 2004 and published 15 times a year by L&N Inc. and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 555 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019. Telephone: (212) 237-8442. Fax: (212) 237-8446. E-mail: len@jjay.cuny.edu. Web site: www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/len. Subscription rates: \$28 per year. Advertising rates available upon request.

Requests for permission to reprint any portion of Law Enforcement News in any form or medium should be addressed to Marie Simonetti Rosen, Publisher. ISSN: 0364-1724. Law Enforcement News is available in microform from University Microfilms Inc., 300 North Zeeb Road, Dept. PR, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Court orders lifted for state police agencies

State police agencies from two Southern states — Mississippi and Arkansas — were freed in September from hiring decrees instituted decades ago to integrate blacks and females into their ranks.

The decree lifted by U.S. District Court Judge Walter J. Gex III on Sept. 21 had been issued nearly 33 years earlier, on Sept. 29, 1971. It required the Mississippi Highway Patrol to recruit an equal number of whites and African Americans. Gex lifted the decree after a settlement was reached between the state's Department of Public Safety and the Washington, D.C.-based Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

In a motion asking to be released from the decree, the DPS showed that 34 percent of troopers are black. According to 2000 census figures, blacks make up 26 percent of the state's overall labor force.

DPS Commissioner Rusty Fortenberry said the agency will also hire an industrial psychology firm to create a race neutral test for applicants.

"The focus for us is finding the best, most qualified people to serve the state's citizens," Fortenberry told *The Associated Press*. "I am committed to that regardless of race or sex. As long as I am here, there will be a fair selection process."

The Mississippi NAACP will continue to monitor the Highway Patrol's hiring of minorities, said Derrick Johnson, the chapter's president. "We will see how much Mississippi has really changed now that they aren't under a judge's thumb to hire minorities," he told *The AP*.

Budgetary constraints have led to just two recruit classes in the past five years. These have produced 35 black troopers, 58 white troopers and two Hispanic troopers, said DPS spokesman Warren Strain.

In Arkansas, although the State Police has been unable to hire enough female troopers to fulfill the demands of a 1977 hiring decree, a federal judge on Sept. 23 released the agency from that aspect of the decree,

"We will see how much Mississippi has really changed now that they aren't under a judge's thumb."

— Mississippi NAACP president
Derrick Johnson

and from all other aspects of it in two years.

The consent decree stemmed from a complaint filed against the State Police by the Justice Department, which claimed that the agency had engaged in employment discrimination against blacks and women.

The decree required the ASP to boost the

proportion of black troopers to 15 percent, and female troopers to 46 percent. At the time, the 468-officer force had just nine black troopers and two women.

The most recent numbers available, from November 2003, show that women make up just 4.4 percent of troopers. However, the agency has exceeded by 25 percent the goal set for hiring females in civilian positions.

Blacks now account for 14.9 percent of troopers. There, too, the agency has exceeded its goal for hiring minorities in civilian positions.

"The Arkansas State Police has worked diligently in recent years to develop policies and procedures that met the criteria of the

consent decree," said State Police Director Col. Sieve Dozier. "I will continue to see to it that this department fairly and equitably adheres to the hiring and promotional practices that have met with the approval of the court."

But Lt. Sedrick Reed, president of the Arkansas chapter of the National Black State Troopers Coalition, said he did not think the decree should have been removed.

"We're making progress, but overall, I don't think we're ready," he told *The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. "In two years, who knows, maybe we will be. . . Obviously somebody felt the need to move forward, and hopefully they are right."

LA cops 'leave the light on' with special squad to tackle motel crime

With violence at local motels on the rise, the Los Angeles Police Department has assigned a squad from the San Fernando Valley station to target crime at those locations.

Nicknamed the Motel Six squad, the six-member unit has already been credited with making 100 felony and misdemeanor arrests within a seven-week period from August through the middle of September. It has been so successful that Police Chief William Bratton may expand the effort citywide.

"It's much more easy to hide in a motel than in your neighborhood," Valley Bureau Cmdr. Valentino Panizza told *The Los Angeles Daily News*. "Guns, violence, drugs, identity theft, computers — they get free electricity, a base of operations, concealment, mobility. They can move from day to day."

The squad was formed this past summer after police began noticing an increase in violence at motels. Last year, Officer Matthew Pavlek was fatally shot during a

gun battle at a Ramada Inn. Two years ago, a murder suspect was caught living in his car at a North Hollywood motel. And in 2003, police shot and killed Craig Lee Smith, suspected of being the "Yellow Tooth Bandit" who had held up dozens of motels.

The Motel Six squad checks motel parking lots, running licenses through squad car computer terminals. That information is then checked against guest registers.

Last month, the squad raided a motel and arrested Joseph Romagnano, 32, on drug charges. Officers found methamphetamine, marijuana and more than \$11,000 in cash.

The courts have long recognized law enforcement's authority to run license plates to see if a vehicle has been stolen, or if there is a warrant issued for the vehicle's owner, said Capt. James Miller, head of the Van Nuys Division. Miller had expressed concerns about privacy rights when the squad was still in its planning stage.

A similar program in Las Vegas caught the attention of the American Civil Liberties

Union in 1999 when a guest refused to have his identification forwarded to police after trying to check into a long-term motel [See L&N, March 31, 1999.]

The agency's Identify, Detect, Locate program (IDL) was used to check for outstanding warrants at motels rented on a weekly or monthly basis. Each week, paperwork was collected and run through a mobile computer terminal.

The IDL program was subsequently modified, with changes including the placement of large posters informing patrons that their identification would be photocopied and sent to police.

In California, the LAPD's program is in line with efforts by the City Attorney's office to shut down problematic motels under the city's nuisance-abatement laws.

"We're going to be working closely with (the motel squad)," Deputy City Attorney Colleen Courtney told *The Daily News*. "We know that city resources are limited. This is an effective approach."

No (over)time for sergeants:

Supervisory pay plan roils St. Louis waters

Continued from Page 1

would be ineligible, Mokwa said.

"What they're doing is just trying to circumvent the rules," Sgt. Gary Wiegert told *The Associated Press*. "This new law actually makes us eligible, yet the city of St. Louis is refusing to honor it. What are they going to do, take the lights off the police cars and take the sirens away from us?"

Missouri's two Republican U.S. senators, Kit Bond and Jim Talent, requested an investigation by the Labor Department on the grounds that the police department was denying its sergeants the overtime pay they were now due.

In a letter to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, they wrote: "It is our understanding that SLMPD [St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department] police sergeants did not previously receive overtime pay as part of their standard salary and benefits package under the old overtime regulations, but should now be entitled to overtime under the recently revised regulations."

It is critical, said Bond and Talent, that the Labor Department protect the overtime rights of St. Louis's sergeants.

Jeffrey Rainford, chief of staff for Mayor

Francis Slay, said that Labor Department investigators will be satisfied with what they find in St. Louis. It is unfortunate, he told *The Associated Press*, that Bond and Talent sent their letter before speaking with Mokwa.

"I think it could have cleared this whole thing up to their satisfaction. There are always two sides to a story," said Rainford.

The overtime regulations are supported by the National Fraternal Order of Police. Any confusion about the overtime rights of sergeants could be the result of unwillingness by agencies to change past practices, said legislative liaison Chris Granberg.

"I think if you look at the regulations themselves, they say regardless of what rank you are, how much money you make, if you perform public service works, then you are entitled to overtime pay," he told L&N. "I think it does more to recognize the greater responsibilities that are on state and local public safety since 9/11."

That may put a burden on towns and villages that never had to pay overtime to sergeants or lieutenants, said Michael Taylor, a member of the FOP's national board.

In an interview with *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Taylor said inflated municipal

budgets caused by the rule could cause officials to order reductions in overtime.

At Kennedy International Airport in New York, that is exactly what police sources charged this month. Sources cited by *The Daily News* said that in an effort to slash police overtime, Port Authority officials are leaving key security posts created after 9/11 uncovered.

One of the posts, said the newspaper, is responsible for watching Israel's El Al airline counter.

"If you can't do it on straight time, it won't be covered," said an officer. "And there aren't enough cops to do it on straight time, so it's not being covered."

Port Authority officials disagreed. The agency's ranks have been expanded by more than 500 officers since the attacks. There are enough sworn personnel to handle security, officials told *The Daily News*.

About 10 percent of St. Louis's sergeants are eligible for overtime under the job classifications determined by the Board of Police Commissioners, said Mokwa.

"I'm not adamantly opposed to paying them overtime. Although in good faith, I hired a prominent labor attorney who argued



Chief Joe Mokwa

Doing what's "legal and practical."

some cases before the U.S. Supreme Court to review it," he said, adding, "It's not like I'm a rabid opponent, or proponent. Whatever is determined to be the practicality of the issue and what's legal and practical, we'll do it."

Baltimore's 'CitiStat' lauded as innovation

A computerized tracking system that applies law enforcement's CompStat model to more than a dozen of Baltimore's public agencies, including its police department, was honored last month as a winner of the Innovations in American Government Award.

The CitiStat program was developed four years ago by then newly-elected Mayor Martin O'Malley. Just as CompStat holds police commanders accountable for crime in their precincts, CitiStat holds agency heads and system managers accountable for everything from garbage pickups to potholes to drug operations.

"CompStat was in Baltimore and the mayor was an enormous proponent of trying to replicate the gains that places like New York City had in the early 1990s," CitiStat Director Matt Gallagher said in an interview with Law Enforcement News. "The mayor felt very comfortable with the CompStat approach and said, 'I wish I had a similar type of mechanism for managing the rest of city government.' That was really the genesis behind the CitiStat idea."

Agency heads meet with O'Malley, Gallagher and top aides every other week. Days before the meeting, they are required to submit detailed data that covers the two-week period. The numbers are analyzed by members of the CitiStat team, who prepare it for presentation. CitiStat's operations team ensures the data's credibility by conducting field investigations and pulling cases at random. It also compares the figures to the

reports from the previous period and comes up with questions designed to highlight certain aspects of the data or identify trouble spots.

A technical team prepares briefing books and uses a Geographic Information System to plot the information on a computer pin map.

While the police department uses CompStat much as other departments across the country do, CitiStat acts as a planning layer, said Gallagher. Instead of tracking crime day-to-day, precinct-by-precinct, as CompStat does, the bimonthly review looks at citywide efforts. It also serves as a means of identifying how other agencies can support the law-enforcement effort.

"Often times we might use the CitiStat sessions to identify where there might be opportunities to get better coordination, cooperation with supporting agencies as a way of fixing street lights, demolishing vacant properties, and increasing code enforcement activities," Gallagher told LEN.

It provides a "macro perspective on the gains and challenges that the police department has made, or is facing," he said. Moreover, crime trends can be viewed alongside other trends occurring around Baltimore.

From 2000 to 2003, the program has produced \$100 million in cost savings and revenue enhancements, according to The Washington Post Writers Group.

Gallagher said that violent crime has fallen in Baltimore by 37 percent. While he

would not credit CitiStat for the reduction, Gallagher called it a useful tool that helps all aspects of city government perform better.

CitiStat was one of five winners chosen from over 1,000 applicants for the Innovations in American Government Award presented by Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and the Council for Excellence in Government. Each winner will receive a grant of \$100,000 to support replication of its efforts.

"[CitiStat] is one of the best tools to hold agencies and agency heads accountable for performance," Carl Fillichio, vice president of the Council for Excellence in Government, told The (Baltimore) Sun. "And the fact that citizens in Baltimore can log onto it and be a part of the process is a pretty terrific thing."

The CitiStat program has benefited from the city's implementation in 1996 of a 311 number designed to reduce the number of non-emergency calls to 911. Launched as a pilot program, the 311 call center has become a model for other cities around the country. [See LEN, Dec. 15/31, 1999.]

In an interview with the journal Government Technology last year, Gallagher said that in developing CitiStat, officials looked at all the disparate ways that Baltimore's other municipal agencies collected complaints. Many of their call centers were no more than a few phone lines with a handful of people

at the other end. The city decided to consolidate those scattered resources into one call center and provide residents with a single number — 311 — to lodge complaints.

"Without a true understanding of the public's true demand for city services, you're limited in how much success you're going to have [with a CompStat model]," Gallagher said. "Conversely, if you're a front-end call center that captures everything you'd ever want to know about what people want in city government, that's great. But if you don't have a city government on the back end to execute on delivering those services, all you're doing is setting up [unrealistic] expectations."

Phyllis McDonald, the director of curriculum/research at Johns Hopkins University's Division of Public Safety Leadership, believes the CitiStat model is a good one. It is unique, she told LEN, in that it pulls in city agencies other than police.

As more municipalities look at Baltimore's program and implement their own version, they would be wise not to fall back on the old process of checking results at the end of the year, McDonald noted. To be successful, she said, there must be intermediate checks.

"It's short-term checks on whether you're achieving your goals that makes the difference," McDonald said. "It's not waiting a year and saying we did it or we didn't. This is a whole different process of getting people involved in an ongoing basis."

All in the family:

Who gets hurt when juveniles get violent?

Parents and stepparents, especially those over the age of 30, accounted for a sizable proportion of the victims of simple and aggravated assaults committed by juveniles during 1997 and 1998, according to researchers at the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

In their study, "Victims of Violent

Juvenile Crime," Carl McCurley and Howard N. Snyder analyzed data collected by the FBI for its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Nearly all of the information — 98 percent — came from 11 states: Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

While NIBRS data for the years examined was not nationally representative, according to the study, the researchers said it does reflect the experiences of a large number of victims of juvenile violence. In all, states reported that 19 percent of the 667,679 people who were victims of violent offenses faced at least one juvenile offender.

A substantial majority of victims were acquainted with their attackers, said the report. Sixty-nine percent of sexual assaults perpetrated by juveniles were against acquaintances, as were 65 percent of aggravated assaults. Simple assaults in which an acquaintance was the victim made up 67 percent of all cases.

When juvenile offenders attacked adults, they were often family members, said the study. Parents and stepparents, the researchers said, made up 9 percent of all victims of aggravated assaults and 13 percent of simple assaults. Those family members who were age 30 or older accounted for a far greater percentage — 37 percent and 52 percent, respectively.

Parents between the ages of 35 and 39 accounted for 60 percent of simple assaults and 41 percent of aggravated assaults, said the study.

Family members were also the most likely to be sexually assaulted by a teenage offender — 54 percent. Of those, children under 12 were the victims in 84 percent of incidents. Victims who were acquaintances or strangers were generally over the age of 12, the study said.

Males accounted for the majority of juvenile offenders — 74 percent, according to the study. They were also the perpetrators in 92 percent of the cases in which the victim was a male under the age of 18.

Women, the study said, victimized other female adolescents 42 percent of the time. Women were also more likely to hurt infants. Children under the age of 2 were victimized 34 percent of the time by females.

Schwarzenegger says "Hasta la vista, baby" to plan to issue licenses to illegal aliens

Supporters of legislation that would have allowed California's estimated 2 million illegal immigrants to obtain a driver's license failed for a fourth time in late September when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill passed at the 11th hour by legislators.

Citing national security, Schwarzenegger said in a brief veto message that he viewed protecting the safety of California's citizens as one of his most important duties as governor. "Determining the true identity and history of an individual is a key component of that protection," he said.

Until 1993, when lawmakers voted to change the law, California did not require proof of legal residence to apply for a driver's license. The neighboring states of Utah, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington still do not. But 40 other states and the District of Columbia do require such proof, according to the Los Angeles-based National Immigration Law Center.

California lawmakers passed the bill just hours before adjourning their two-year session on Aug. 27. Using a parliamentary

maneuver, supporters were able to forgo committee hearings and rush the measure to the Senate floor, where the bill passed by a vote of 21-14, and the Assembly, where it passed 42 to 35.

But the legislation lacked a key provision that Schwarzenegger had insisted upon, a requirement that the licenses of illegal immigrants bear a special identifying mark.

Supporters claim that such a mark would invite discrimination by creating a stigma, and said that Schwarzenegger had broken his promise to find a compromise.

"The governor had an opportunity to exercise national leadership on the driver's license issue and move California forward," said Edward Headington, a spokesman for state Senator Gil Cedillo, a Los Angeles Democrat who was one of the bill's primary sponsors. "He vetoed today the best driver's license bill in America, one that strengthens national security, one that strengthens public safety and holds immigrants to the highest-level standard anywhere in the nation," he told The Associated Press.

In 2001, Cedillo withdrew a version of the bill in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The following year, the same proposal was vetoed. The 2003 legislation was signed by Gov. Gray Davis, but was repealed by legislators shortly after his defeat in last year's recall election.

Under the bill, Cedillo contended, the government would have been able to fingerprint and conduct background checks on immigrants — both those who are here illegally and those seeking citizenship.

Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton was among those who supported the idea of allowing undocumented aliens to apply for licenses, saying that the highways would be made safer by requiring immigrants to pass the state's driving test and buy insurance.

But opponents countered that the law could be used by terrorists. "This veto makes it harder for terrorists to obtain the primary document used for renting cars, boarding planes, and making other travel arrangements," said Assembly Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield.

SHORT TAKES

Small, but thinking big

Smaller law enforcement agencies will now have the same online search capabilities as larger departments, with the help of a database that includes Social Security and vehicle identification numbers.

Called SecureUSA, the database, compiled by the Omaha-based InfoUSA, lets investigators track down wireless phone numbers, driver's license information and vehicle information from 31 states, aliases, relatives' and associates' names; and persons named as parties in civil lawsuits. The Omaha World Herald reported in September.

The SecureUSA database is said to contain 250 million people and 14 million businesses, which the company says it will only make available to government agencies. SecureUSA will cost smaller agencies roughly \$200 a month, according to Vinod Gupta, the company's chairman and chief executive.

Dogged analysis

With minorities found to represent 83 percent of those bitten by Los Angeles Sheriff's Department dogs in 2003, a review of the agency has urged Sheriff Lee Baca and his deputies to do some "soul searching" on whether racial profiling could have played a role.

The study, conducted by Merick J. Bobb, special counsel to the county's Board of Supervisors, found that 25 of the 30 suspects who suffered dog bites last year were either black or Hispanic. In 1999, all 15 suspects were minorities.

Bobb also found that while the dogs were used less frequently, bites were occurring more often. Roughly 10 percent of suspects caught over the past decade were bitten. That rate rose to 23 percent during the first six months of 2004.

In general, however, the report praised deputies' performance. Saul Bobb, "Ultimately, the sheriff's department and the LAPD tend to do things better than almost all other urban law enforcement agencies."

Caught pink-handed

A new additive to anhydrous ammonia, a fertilizer used in the production of methamphetamine, leaves tell-tale pink stains on the hands and clothing of meth cooks who raid farms in search of the chemical.

The additive, called GloTell, was developed by researchers at Southern Illinois University. While it is safe for crops, farmers can detect equipment leaks in their anhydrous ammonia tanks by stains around pipes and valves. And even after vigorous scrubbing, minute particles of GloTell remain visible under ultraviolet light for 24 to 72 hours.

"It's got potential," Dave Bellows, the chief deputy sheriff in Dakota County, Minn., told The Minneapolis Star Tribune. "We haven't had experience with it yet, but if it helps detection, that's good."

GloTell will add \$9 per ton to the cost of anhydrous ammonia, which now runs farmers about \$375 a ton.

There is the chance, however, that meth cooks will just

switch to a formula that does not include anhydrous ammonia. The only irreplaceable ingredient for making the drug is ephedrine or pseudoephedrine.

Troubled Anchorage

In the wake of a report last year that highlighted weaknesses within the Anchorage Police Department, the agency in September unveiled a five-year plan to improve itself in the areas of staffing, performance, technology, public relations and capital projects planning.

"We'd always complain that there was no rudder," Police Chief Walt Monagan told The Anchorage Daily News. "Now we have one."

Among the plan's goals is to have the department's domestic violence unit serve all domestic violence warrants within 48 hours of being issued, and all protective orders within 72 hours. Police will also re-contact 75 percent of victims for follow-up interviews. They will then make an "Alaska-specific" determination as to how deadly the situation is.

Over the next year, the APD will continue to streamline its background checks and training processes. The plan calls for a full-time recruiter to help the agency gain the 93 officers that the 2003 study said it would need to meet community needs. This year's academy — the largest in seven years — should produce a net gain of 10 officers for the department.

Bigger and better

The Anne Arundel Medical Center in Maryland is continuing to improve on a domestic violence program launched in 1996 by providing round-the-clock counseling, and creating a forensic examination room for sexual abuse victims.

From January through August of this year, the unit has served 445 people. Last year, prior to expanding to 24-hour-a-day service, the unit helped roughly 30 patients a month.

"The ability to interact with patients is extraordinary because of the setup here," Pat Saunders, director of nursing in the emergency department, told The (Baltimore) Sun. "It's so overwhelming to see that kind of response."

According to Laurel Burnett, the hospital's domestic violence specialist, victims sometimes check in to the emergency room with no shoes or socks. Program workers first address the patients' basic needs, such as clothes and food, then transfer them to a private room. There, counselors tell them about other resources, including police.

Blown cover

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly expressed outrage recently when a federal judge in Brooklyn forced an undercover narcotics detective to testify under her real name at the trial of two crack cocaine dealers.

The detective told Judge Charles Sifton that she feared retaliation from the friends and relatives of defendants.

Wilfred Burkett and Garth Mayers. The two men were part of a gang that terrorized residents at the Marcus Garvey Houses in Brownsville.

Before calling her to testify, prosecutors asked Judge Charles Sifton to clear the courtroom gallery. The NYPD sent a supervisor to the court to testify that the detective was one of the few who was able to penetrate the drug gangs. Going about her job with an actress's zeal, the detective described wearing theatrical makeup, panties outside her outermost garments, and not bathing for several days in her role as a sickly crackhead.

Sifton insisted that revealing the detective's identity would not destroy her career as an undercover operative. There are 10 precincts in Brooklyn North, he said, and the detective's ability to operate in one housing project does not "deprive her of her remarkable skill to be effective in any of the many other housing projects within the other precincts."

It's not that simple, said a supervisor in the detective's narcotics unit. "She's done," the supervisor said. "We're going to have to move her."

Kelly said Sifton's actions set a dangerous precedent. "Compelling an undercover to testify in court is dangerous for the officer and undermines the viability of her ongoing investigations," he said.

Crime scenes in a nutshell

With their tiny tableaux of mayhem and murder, Baltimore's Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death are anything but Barbie's dream house.

The 19 dollhouses were created in the 1940s by Frances Glessner Lee, a Chicago heiress whose interest in criminal justice led her to endow a department in legal medicine at Harvard. She created the Nutshells as a classroom tool. Each of them depicts an actual homicide in extraordinary detail.

All of the dollhouses hold miniature clues for criminologists — lipstick-smudged pillowcases, miniature cigarette butts, and bullets embedded in the walls. Lee fashioned knick-knacks from jewelry charms, and knitting needles from pins. A carpenter built the dioramas, adding staircases and other features that students would barely be able to see.

"People take them as seriously as any other crime scene," said Dr. David R. Fowler, Maryland's chief medical examiner, in an interview with The New York Times. "I've never seen anybody make jokes, because of the degree of intricacy and detail. The quality is stunning. I have never seen any computer-generated programs that even come close."

The Nutshells are on display at Fowler's office. While the department that Lee endowed at Harvard was phased out after her death in 1962, Maryland's chief medical examiner at the time, Dr. Russell Fisher, brought the Nutshells with him to Baltimore, where they have been kept — and used — ever since. [See LEN, Feb. 28, 1999.]

A book on the tiny crime scenes, "The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death," which will include some 500 close-up photos of the miniatures, was released on Oct. 14 by Monacelli Press.

BJS says crime remains at 30-year low

While the downward trend in violent and property crimes finally showed signs of flattening out last year, the public remains as safe today as it was in 1973, according to a survey released in September by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

In its annual National Crime Victimization Survey, the agency found no statistically significant change in per-capita crime rates between 2002 and 2003. The annual average did fall by 7 percent, however, from 2000 to 2001, it said.

"There is probably no single factor explanation for why the crime rates have been going down all these years and are now at the lowest level since we started measuring them in 1973," Lawrence A. Greenfeld, the director of BJS, told The New York Times. "It probably has to do with demographics, and it probably has to do with having a lot

of very high-rate offenders behind bars."

During the two-year period of 2001-2002, there was roughly 1 victimization for every 38 residents age 12 or over, said the study. The following year the rate fell to 1 victimization for every 44 residents.

Violent victimizations overall have declined by 55 percent during the past decade, from 50 per 1,000 people in 1993 to 23 per 1,000 in 2003. Among the most significant declines have been in such offenses as attempted rape, which fell by 71 percent; sexual assault, down by 68 percent; and robbery, down by 58 percent.

Property crimes fell by 49 percent during that decade, from 319 to 164 per 1,000 households.

The National Crime Victimization Survey is based on interviews with 84,000 households. Information on homicides — crimes

for which there are no living victims to interview — is obtained from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report.

From the period 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, violent offenses dropped by 14 percent from 27 to 23 victimizations per 1,000 people. During that same period, robberies fell by 21 percent, aggravated assault by 20 percent, and simple assaults by 11 percent.

Based on preliminary data, murders in 2003 were found to have risen by 1.3 percent compared to 2002, to an estimated total of 16,420 victims.

As in previous years, most homicide victims — 77 percent — were male. Blacks and whites each made up roughly 49 percent of the victims. More than three-quarters of victims knew their murderers, according to the study.

Nearly one-quarter of all violent crimes

were committed by an armed offender, said the survey, with the type of weapon varying according to the offense. Only 3 percent of rapes or sexual assaults occurred with a firearm present, as compared to 25 percent of robberies. The rate of firearms violence fell from 5.9 to 1.9 victimizations per 1,000 over the past decade.

Reporting to the police also varied with the offense, the survey noted. Sixty-one percent of robberies and 59 percent of aggravated assaults were reported, compared to 39 percent of the sexually assaults and 42 percent of simple assaults. The most frequently reported crime was car theft — 77 percent.

Overall, 48 percent of violent crime and 38 percent of property crime victimizations were reported to police, according to the survey.

Rodriguez:

When police ethics is spelled with a Zzzz...

By Dennis Rodriguez

Tired? If you are a police officer, I'll bet you are. Sit down, put your feet up. But don't fall asleep, take your time and read this, for it just may do you some good. As police officers, we have come across numerous occasions when we wished we had just gotten that extra hour of sleep, or the feeling that if you just close your eyes for a few minutes you will feel much better. Yes, it's a problem — police fatigue.

There are numerous contributing factors that can cause police fatigue, along with numerous ways of combating it. In his book "Tired Cops" (Police Executive Research Forum, 2000) Bryan Vila offers a number of clues to the causes of police fatigue, statistics

(Dennis Rodriguez has been a police officer for nine years. He is currently with the Tampa Police Department, where he works in the Street-level Narcotics Unit. Rodriguez holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from the University of South Florida and is currently pursuing his master's degree in criminal justice at Saint Leo University in Florida.)

about police fatigue, and remedies that can be applied to curb fatigue. [See LEN, April 30, 2002, Jan. 15/31, 2001] But let's look at police fatigue in a different light. Look at it as a "sleeping cop." When, if at all, does a fatigued police officer become an ethical issue? Is it an ethical issue when the officer next to you in that patrol car is sleeping? What burden does that put on you? On that sleeping officer?

As police officers we are at high risk for fatigue. This high risk can lead to sleeping on duty or an inattention to duty. Vila's research shows that fatigue can impair a police officer just as if he had consumed too much alcohol. Vila cites a 1999 survey of four representative U.S. police departments that found that "police officers averaged 6 hours and 37 minutes of sleep per day." We have all heard that eight hours of uninterrupted sleep is the required amount to relieve stress from the previous day and get our bodies ready for the next. According to the American Sleep Disorders Association, more than 22 million Americans work a shift other than



a regular day shift and must face the problems of sleeping during the day and being alert on the job at night. Sleeping during the daylight hours is often interrupted, broken into pieces, and not restful. It interrupts the body's circadian rhythm, the normal pattern of sleep/wake cycles. When one considers that police officers spend

most of their day sitting in a vehicle, trying to drive a car, talk on the radio, type on the computer and make quick decisions, you have a recipe for disaster.

Several factors must be weighed when addressing the topic of fatigue and police officers. One is shift assignments, which vary from one police department to another and generally are not constant and stable. Shifts vary in length from 12 hours down to 8, while days typically consist of such variations as 2-on, 2 off, 4 on, 4 off, 4-on, 3-off, or the standard and familiar 8 hour day, with 5 days on and 2 days off. Some departments allow for a shift bid type process that keeps the officer on the same cycle for a year or two based on seniority, while others rotate from days to evenings to nights every month or so.

Another factor to consider is extra duty or off-duty assignments. Most police agencies allow their officers to moonlight in an extra duty or off duty capacity, which enables the officer to earn extra money on the side to supplement his or her income. These assignments can vary in kind and degree, from patrolling a certain neighborhood, providing store security or directing traffic at construction sites. Some agencies stipulate a maximum amount of hours that can be worked in an extra duty capacity, in an attempt to minimize the likelihood of officers responding to their regular assignment tired or fatigued.

Then there's court time or overtime. When an officer is just getting off from working a midnight shift, having to sit in a courtroom all day can put severe stress on the body. Family obligations are another factor. As a police officer myself, I have worked the midnight shifts, the overtime, the court time and the extra-duty days while trying to juggle a "normal" life with my family at home. It is not easy.

As a general rule, no single factor is solely responsible for police officer fatigue; it is typically the result of a combination of

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OTHER VOICES

When justice works: Seeking a pardon, police chief sends a positive message

What a wonderful example of all the best that police and others in the criminal system work to achieve when Lennie Hiltner recently received a pardon from the Nebraska Board of Pardons. Hiltner, who has worked for the past few years as Schuyler's police chief, had committed several misdemeanors before he turned 21. He recently told The World-Herald that the positive influence of a Kearney police officer during that period was a key in leading him to turn his life around. So Hiltner enlisted in the Army, then became a police officer. Then, there he was last week, asking for a pardon to make a public statement that that old period in his life was really over. His new life was about honor, justice and maybe, hopefully, helping others as he had been helped. Bringing that past out for public discussion had to be painful for Hiltner. But what a statement, and what an example. Even "bad" kids have good qualities. But they need fair treatment, even-handed discipline and often a strong role model. Schuyler, and all of Nebraska, should be proud of Lennie Hiltner for providing that model.

— Omaha World Herald, Oct. 4, 2004

Leadership void apparent on weapons ban

Inaction by Congress this week gave us a glimpse of our representatives' priorities, and it was quite disappointing. The concerns of law enforcement officers and millions of Americans fall somewhere below the wishes of the gun lobby. On Monday, the 10-year-old ban on assault weapons expired. None of our tri-state representatives did anything to stop it. President Bush said he would sign another ban if Congress sent him one. Curiously, no such legislation came his way, even though roughly two-thirds of Americans say they think an assault weapons ban is a good idea. More than 100 Iowa police chiefs and sheriffs signed statements for a stronger assault weapons ban. Law enforcement officers have reason for concern. Assault weapons represent no more than 2 percent of the weapons owned by the public, but they are used in 20 percent of cop killings. As a country, we should have on our books a law prohibiting civilians from owning weapons designed for combat. It is what law enforcement officers want. It is what most Americans want. That we have no such law is the result of political cowardice in the face of the powerful gun lobby.

— Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph Herald, Sept. 15, 2004

Virginia's Crime Lab Needs Scientific Oversight

Virginia's crime lab received a much-needed infusion of federal

money last week to help reduce a six-month backlog of untested DNA samples. The money is welcome, but other questions exist about operations at the lab, and state officials should move urgently to address them as well. DNA has become such a crucial scientific tool in crime-solving, leading to both the conviction of violent offenders as well as the exoneration of the innocent. With lives of defendants as well as public safety at stake, Virginia officials should show greater concern about the lab's internal operations to help ensure that justice is served. One of the problems preventing tough questioning of the facility's operation stems from lack of scientific expertise among those charged with overseeing it. No one above the lab director has a science background. The director's supervisor, who is head of the Department of Criminal Justice Services, is a former police chief. The board that oversees the department, and by extension the lab, is composed of people with law enforcement and criminal justice backgrounds. Getting \$2.1 million to test backlogged samples resolves one issue, but it's only a start. Virginia needs to clear up questions about its lab and provide the expert oversight that will assure Virginians of valid DNA results.

— Roanoke (Va.) Times & World News, Sept. 28, 2004

Give gangs the boot for safer streets

It's appalling that some civil libertarians get more worked up about the rights of gang members to freely congregate on street corners than the rights of law-abiding citizens to safely walk their local streets. But we can already sense the politically-correct brigade descending on City Hall to derail Councilor Paul Scapicchio's proposal to give police the power to arrest KNOWN gang members who refuse to disperse on city streets in KNOWN areas of gang activity. One ACLU lawyer denounced the plan as a "blunderbuss." But it's perfectly fine for gang members to "tag" parked cars and even homes with spray paint to mark their turf? And police can't do a thing about it because so long as they're watching, gang members are simply — and legally — hanging out. "Gangs avoid arrest by committing no offense punishable under existing laws while maintaining control over identifiable areas for criminal activity," the proposed anti-loitering home rule petition notes. As for objections that the ordinance could be used to harass law-abiding immigrants, Scapicchio [said], "I meet with new immigrants regularly from El Salvador and Colombia who say they're not only afraid of the gangs but they're afraid their children will join gangs." Like anyone else, they want their neighborhoods and kids to be safe. A misguided focus on the rights of gang members shouldn't stand in the way.

— The Boston Herald, Sept. 27, 2004

Note to Readers:

The opinions expressed on the Forum page are those of the contributing writer or cartoonist, or of the original source newspaper, and do not represent an official position of Law Enforcement News.

Readers are invited to voice their opinions on topical issues, in the form of letters or full-length commentaries. Please send all materials to the editor.

Questions surround police suicide numbers

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figures are based on notifications from police organizations such as the National Fraternal Order of Police, and the California Narcotics Officers Association, among others, and from news media reports. The foundation stopped using numbers provided by the Federal Centers for Disease Control, he said, because the agency could only tally police suicides in fewer than half the states.

"All these numbers we give out are naturally all projected numbers, because there is no federal agency in the U.S. that actually tallies the number of suicides," Douglas told Law Enforcement News. "But if you go back, you'll find there have been 25 major researches on police suicide starting around 1934 going all the way up to 1984, 1988. If you took every one of those and averaged them out, you will find none of them are lower than what the line of duty deaths were. They all ran 2-to-1 or 3-to-1."

It would not be unreasonable to believe that if 145 officers were killed in 2003, the number who took their own lives would be roughly 300, Douglas asserted.

Data compiled by USA Today in 1997 and cited by the foundation on its Web site shows that from 1990 through 1998, the Los Angeles Police Department had 11 officers slain on the job, and 20 who committed suicide. The agency's suicide rate of 20.7 per 100,000 officers was 72.5 percent higher than the national average. The San Diego Police Department counted five suicides between 1992 and 1998, with no officers killed during that time. Its suicide rate of 35.7 per 100,000 was 197.5 percent higher than the national suicide rate, according to the USA Today report.

From 1993 to 1998, the FBI had four special agents killed in the line of duty, and 18 who took their own lives, the newspaper reported.

Begging to Differ

Despite the foundation's troubling numbers, there is little if any broad consensus on whether police commit suicide at a higher rate than those in other professions, or whether the number of police suicides has increased over the past few years.

In the FBI's 2001 study "Suicide and Law Enforcement," Prof. John M. Violanti of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the State University of New York at Buffalo posits that suicide rates among police are kept low artificially because they may be routinely misclassified as accidents or undetermined deaths.

"In effect, the initial police investigator is the gatekeeper of information at the scene and medical examiners may have only secondary-level discretion in the classification process," he observed.

Violanti collected 138 complete cases of deaths caused by suicide, accident or undetermined causes; 49 of those were police and 89 were municipal workers. A panel consisting of one chief and two associate county-level medical examiners — all of whom had medical degrees — found that roughly 17 percent of police suicides were misclassified, compared with just 8 percent of suicides in other occupations. Proportionally, there may be 117 police suicides for every 100 officially reported, Violanti said.

In assessing the risk of suicide, homicide and accidental death among 2,611 officers

and comparing that risk with that of municipal workers, Violanti found that police had a suicide rate 8.3 times higher than the rate of police homicide and a suicide rate of 3.1 times that of police accidental deaths. When compared to other municipal workers, police had a 53 percent increased risk of suicide over homicide, a 310 percent greater risk of suicide over fatal accidents, and a 265 percent greater risk of suicide over homicides and accidents combined.

Michael Aadmot, a psychology professor at Radford University in Radford, Va., said that while his research does not address the question of whether suicides have increased, when compared to the appropriate group, police suicide rates are in fact lower than that of the general population.

Most studies, said Aadmot, have taken the suicide rate for law enforcement and then compared it to just an overall national rate. Aadmot's research, which was included in the FBI's study, determined the rate for law enforcement to be 18.1 percent per 100,000 people. The rate for the general public is about 11.4 percent per 100,000.

"You look at that, and you say, 'Hey, it's almost twice as much,'" he said. "The problem is that suicide rates vary tremendously by gender and race."

Men are much more likely to commit suicide than are women, as are people in the 20s, 30s, and 40s, when compared to children and the elderly, said Aadmot.

"If you go ahead and actually compare the suicide rate for police to the appropriate comparison group in terms of age and race and all that, you'll find it falls well below expectations," he told LEN. "If you look at white males between the ages of 22 and 55

— which would be the majority of police officers — the population rate is 25.5 percent. Police actually fall lower than that. If you look at the percentage of officers who are women, who are African American, and you get real specific, your expected rate would have been 21.9 percent. The police rate of 18.1 percent is still below that."

A Chief Concern?

Dr. Scott W. Allen, senior psychologist with the Miami-Dade Police Department's psychological services unit, doubts that suicides are on the rise, at least in major metropolitan areas. If that were so, he told LEN, it would be a major topic of discussion each year when he meets with his colleagues at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference.

"My strong belief is that it is not on the rise," said Allen. "But I can't speak for smaller departments."

It could be that officers in major-city departments have access to psychological services that those in smaller agencies do not, he speculated.

Miami-Dade's suicide prevention training program began with a promise from former Chief Fred Taylor more than a decade ago: that no officer hospitalized in crisis would be terminated. That promise has been honored by the department's most recent director, Carlos Alvarez, said Allen.

"Now it's just so ingrained," he told LEN. "Our belief became the people who are really going to protect police officers from killing themselves are police officers."

The Psychological Services Unit cannot know what is going on at all times, but police know what their partners are going through, or their squad, said Allen.

"We drive like absolute lunatics on what we call a 315, which is lights and sirens, driving as fast as you can, because an officer needs assistance. They will risk life and limb to get there and save one of their fellow officers," he said. "So we put it in that context. You will do that to save one of your officers. You need to do an emotional 315, and what this is is knowing about suicide."

Allen's unit includes a 15- to 20-minute presentation on suicide at the end of every training session they do. For example, at the end of a recent Critical Incident Response Training session, at which department psychologists were on hand to speak with newly promoted officers about their responsibilities at a Special Response Team callout, Allen spoke with them about the dynamics of suicide.

One of the problems peculiar to law enforcement is that police often deal with suicidal subjects who are also mentally ill, said Allen. When officers start contemplating suicide, they believe that they, too, must be mentally ill and become so fearful that they keep these thoughts to themselves.

Miami-Dade psychologists teach officers that suicide is a "problem-solving behavior," he said. For that reason, officers are instructed during the training to ask a colleague directly if he or she is thinking about suicide, and not to use euphemisms.

"You don't say to an officer, 'You're not planning on doing anything stupid, are you?' I refer back to problem-solving behavior," said Allen. "They've given this a lot of thought. They don't think it's stupid. They can look you right in the eye, your best friend, your partner of 20 years, and say 'No.' To them, it's not stupid."

Forum: When police fatigue becomes an ethical question

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factors, along with the stresses of police work itself. Fatigue can be difficult, but it can be overcome. It is something that we as officers must strive to prevent.

Fatigue negatively affects the human body in several different ways. For police officers in particular, it can cause a drop in reaction times, it can lead to irritability, which may cause the officer to use excessive force, and it can affect motor skills, distort eyesight, and cause errors in judgment. It can also make the officer sluggish, prone to illness, and alter the thinking process. It can even cause the officer to fall asleep on the job.

Several factors can play an important role in combating fatigue, and a proper diet can be critical. Eating healthy, with a significant intake of carbohydrates and lean proteins, can improve alertness and play a part in battling fatigue. Refueling your body when it requires it can help to keep fatigue at bay. Physical fitness and exercise are also crucial, ideally in the form of a good workout regimen, by building up the metabolism to aid in keeping the body alert. And, of course, one can scarcely overstate the importance of the amount of sleep that an officer gets. The officer who gets a good night's rest is less likely to be fatigued than the officer who tries to get by on four or five hours of sleep.

Now, then, back to the ethical consideration. Is it an ethical violation to sleep on duty? Is it an ethical violation to allow a

fellow officer to sleep on duty? Would you want to be the officer who responds to a violent domestic disturbance and your backup unit is seven hours into his shift after working eight hours of an extra-duty assignment? Where is the line drawn?

In the grand scheme of things, sleeping on duty may rank relatively low on the list of ethical violations. Nonetheless, it is every bit as serious and poses a genuine risk for injury or death. As police officers, we abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, which states, "My fundamental duty is to . . . safeguard lives and property . . ." How can you be expected to safeguard anything if you are not giving it your all, possibly not even paying attention?

Each agency is unique in how it deals with ethical violations such as sleeping on duty or inattentiveness to duty. Some agencies may issue policies that prohibit working more than a certain amount of hours, whether it is an extra-duty assignment or one's regular tour of duty. Agencies may also require a certain amount of time off between shifts. Others may attempt to limit shift rotations and keep their officers on permanent shifts, alleviating the days-evening/night rotation that can put a severe strain on the body. Just as your body becomes adjusted to a certain shift, it is time to change once again, sending your body into a shock. One week you may be sleeping during the day and you are up all night and

the next week you may be sleeping at night and working through the day.

Personally, I believe sleeping on duty is an ethical violation. I also believe that the responsibility to curb sleeping on duty or police fatigue begins with the individual officer. It is that officer's responsibility to realize that he or she is in dire need of some rest. Realistically, most of us are fatigued just because of the rigors of daily life, but when that fatigue becomes a burden and begins to affect your motor skills, judgment, perception and mood, it is up to you to determine what is best for you. You are ultimately responsible for your actions.

Heed the advice of fellow officers. Sometimes it may be difficult for you to correlate the feelings that you are experiencing as fatigue. And other officers may be noticing the signs and you are not. Listen to them; they rely on you just as you rely on them. You would not want an officer acting as your backup unit on a dangerous call while half asleep, and likewise, you would not want your backup unit to be worried about whether or not you will be half asleep. Many accidents have been reported to be caused by fatigue. Incidents such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster were due in large part to fatigue. Don't let this happen to you. Don't let yourself become another accident or possibly another statistic. Stay safe and stay awake!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

15. Advanced Crime Analysis. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Everett, Wash.

15. Less-Lethal Force Options: Selection & Policy Considerations. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Peters, Mo.

15. Cultural Awareness: Train the Trainer. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Louis.

15. Determining Patrol Staffing, Deployment & Scheduling. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Greer, S.C.

15-17. Homeland Security & Terrorism Analysis Training. Presented by The Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Nashville. \$425

15-19. Crime Analysis Training. Presented by The Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Vancouver, B.C. \$525

15-19. Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training. Presented by The Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Fredericksburg, Va. \$525

16-17. Tactical Edge Seminar. Presented by Calibre Press. Scottsdale, Ariz.

17-18. Confidential Informant Operations. Presented by Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training. New Braintree, Mass. \$250.

22. Administering a Small Law Enforcement Agency. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Westmont, Ill.

22-23. Bomb Countermeasures for Security

Professionals. Presented by the S2 Institute. Clearwater, Fla.

29-Dec. 3. Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training. Presented by The Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. West Palm Beach, Fla. \$525

29-Dec. 3. Crime Analysis Training. Presented by The Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Knoxville, Tenn. \$525

29-Dec. 3. Advanced Criminal Investigative Analysis (Criminal Profiling). Presented by The Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Fredericksburg, Va. \$525

DECEMBER

1-2. Narcotic & Drug Investigations. Presented by Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training. New Braintree, Mass. \$250

1-4. Fall Conference. Presented by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Austin, Texas.

6-7. Tactical Edge Seminar. Presented by Calibre Press. Myrtle Beach, S.C.

6-8. Homeland Security & Terrorism Analysis Training. Presented by The Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Ocala, Fla. \$425

6-10. Ethics: Train-the-Trainer. Presented by the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration. Plano, Texas. \$545.

6-10. Crime Analysis Training. Presented by The

Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Fort Lauderdale, Fla. \$525

6-10. Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training. Presented by The Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Dallas. \$525

13-15. Tactical Edge Seminar. Presented by Calibre Press. Las Vegas.

14-15. Tactical Edge Seminar. Presented by Calibre Press. Austin/San Antonio, Texas.

14-15. Police Background Investigations/Selection Process. Presented by Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training. Edison, N.J. \$250.

14-16. Use of Force Instructor. Presented by the National Criminal Justice Training Council. Chicago.

For further information:

Addresses & phone/fax numbers for organizations listed in calendar of events.

Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training, P.O. Box 8, Montclair, CA 91763 (909) 989-4366 Fax (909) 476-8271 Email: crimecrash@aol.com Web: www.alphagroupcenter.com

Calibre Press, (800) 323-0037 Web: www.calibrepress.com

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, (800) 368-3757 Web: www.calea.org

Executive Protection Institute, Highlander Lodge, P.O. Box 802, Itterville, VA 22641-0802 (540) 554-2540 Fax (540) 554-2558 Web: www.personalprotection.com

Hutchinson Law Enforcement Training LLC, P.O. Box 3110, Windsor Locks, CT 06096 (800) 627-5480 Fax (860) 627-5609 Email: dlhutchl@att.net Web: www.hutchinsonlet.com

Institute for Law Enforcement Administration, 5201 Democracy Drive, Plano, TX 75024 (972) 241-

3430 Fax (972) 241-3431 Email: ILEA@calaw.org

International Association of Chiefs of Police, (800) 843-4227, ext. 221 Email: mackey@thetac.org Web: www.theiacp.org

Investigative Drug School, P.O. Box 1739, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302 Phone/fax (954) 753-9493

National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, 99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 549-4254 Web: www.ndaa.org

National Criminal Justice Training Council, P.O. Box 1003, Twin Lakes, WI 53181-1003 (262) 279-5735 Fax (262) 279-5758 Email: ncjtc@nctc.com

National Institute of Justice, c/o Institute for Law & Justice, (703) 684-5300 Fax (703) 739-5533 Email: njicpe@bji.org

S2 Institute, 1261 South Missouri Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33756 (727) 461-0066 Fax (727) 449-1269 Web: www.s2institute.com

Departments take two different approaches to cops' off-duty drinking

Continued from Page 1

anonymous letter claiming that officers there had been drunk and that some had participated in lewd behavior. Although the charges were not substantiated, they did lead to further discussion of the Winter Haven PD's off-duty drinking policy.

There is no general order forbidding officers to drink, although intoxication to the point where it entails obnoxious or embarrassing behavior is forbidden. Department rules also dictate that no officer is to report for duty if he or she has been drinking.

This is not the first time the department has had a problem concerning alcohol.

Two years ago, two Winter Haven officers attending a SWAT team training conference in Orlando were reprimanded after an internal affairs investigation found that one of the men had had sex with a former female officer while the other was in the room.

Both officers, Lt. Joseph Cea and Lt. Arturo Trevino, were drinking. Photographs taken that same night showed Trevino playing with the firearms that were to be used in the training. In one picture, he is shown pointing the weapon at Cea as he slept.

Trevino has since left the department.

In another incident, a group of officers attending a baseball game in Tampa became the subject of a departmental investigation after rumors surfaced of excessive drinking and poor behavior.

According to minutes taken at an August staff meeting, as many as one-quarter of ERT officers who attended this summer's promotion party would have been unable to participate in a callout if one had come. While it is unlikely that all 14 members of the unit would be needed, it is always a possibility, acknowledged Chief Paul Goward.

Still, both Goward and City Manager David Greene defended the right of officers to have a life outside of the department.

"We would prefer that they be available," Greene told The Ledger, "but we recognize that they have off-duty lives."

Goward added: "Police officers are human. This is the United States of America."

ERT members get paid 5 percent more than other officers so that they will be available in case of a dangerous situation. If they plan on attending social functions where alcohol may be consumed, Winter Haven's ERT members must now alert the Polk County Sheriff's Department ahead of time so that the sheriff's team will be ready to go if a dangerous situation occurs.

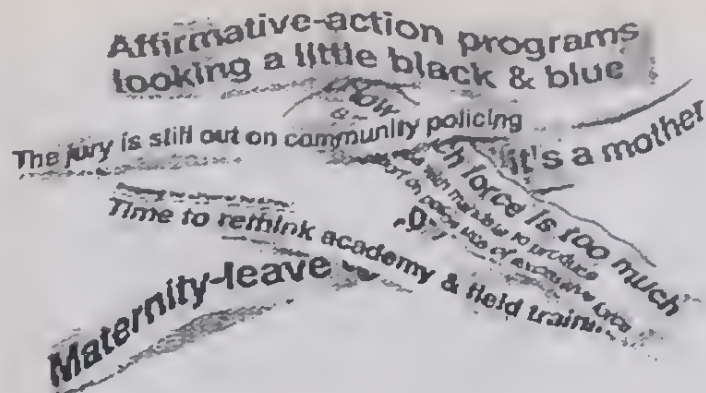
"The reality of it is that [Polk County's] ERTs work in concert with each other," Col Grady Judd of the sheriff's agency told The Ledger. "There was never any danger to the people of Winter Haven because our teams would have been there, whether they called us ahead of time or not."

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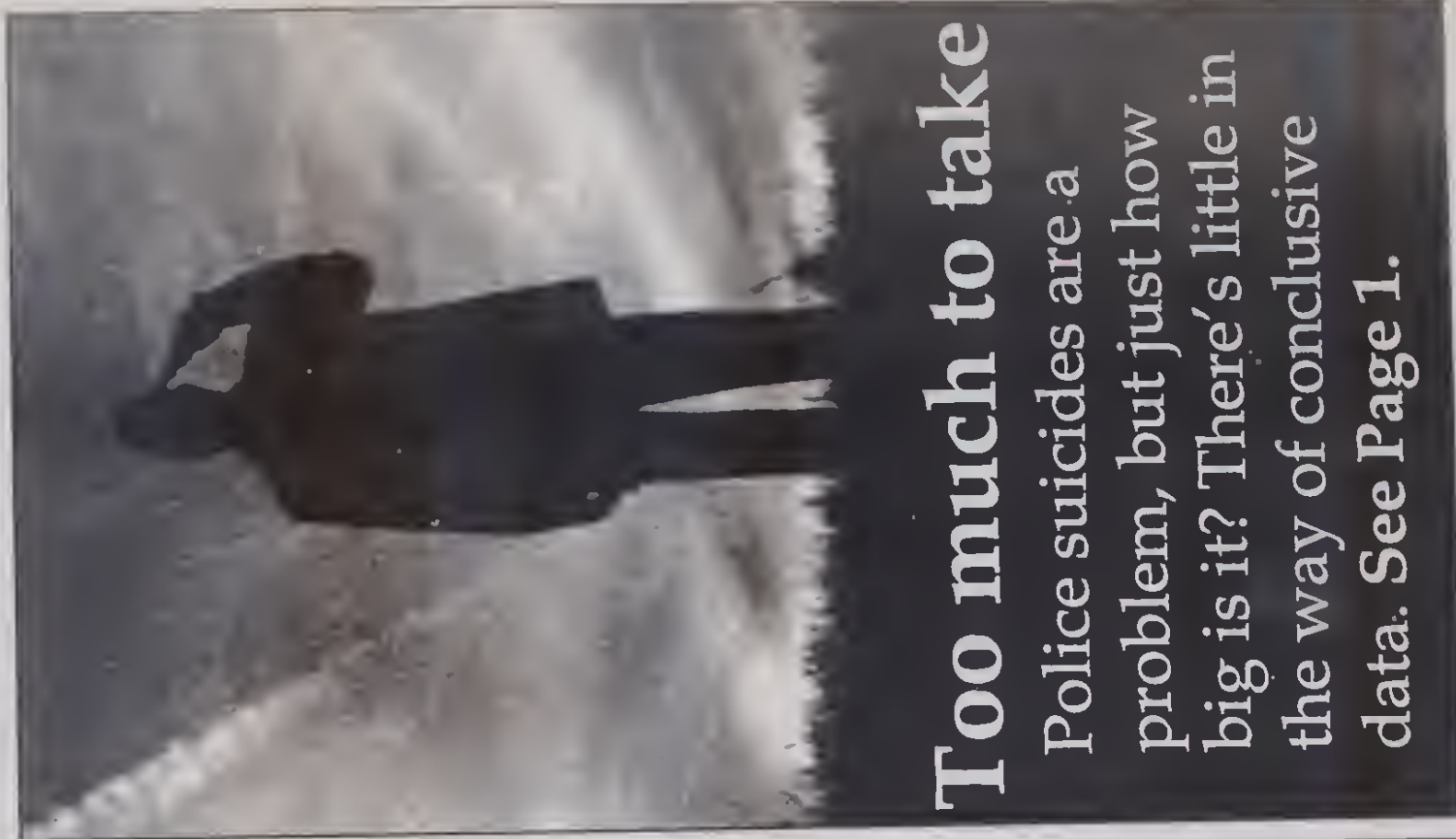
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A publication of John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

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Too much to take

Police suicides are a problem, but just how big is it? There's little in the way of conclusive data. See Page 1.

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 Law Enforcement News
 555 West 57th Street
 New York, NY 10019

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WHAT THEY ARE SAYING:

"I can't believe that any citizen would think that practicing polygamy...is anything that would make law enforcement look good."

— Ogden, Utah, Police Chief Jon Greiner, vice chairman of the state POST Council, on the possible decertification of polygamist officers. (Story, Page 5.)